

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00635 061016Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 INR-10 CIAE-00 /025 W  
-----034892 062245Z /62

R 060847Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4301

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0635

FROM CHARGE FOR CHAIRMAN, OPEN FORUM

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OGEN  
SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF PERSONAL VIEW ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION

BY THIS TIME YOU PROBABLY HAVE MY REVISED PERSONAL MEMO ON THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM DATED APRIL 24. SINCE THEN, AS YOU KNOW, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS BEEN QUOTED ON THIS SUBJECT. FURTHER UPDATING IS NECESSARY IF THE PAPER IS TO SEEM RELEVANT TO YOUR READERS WHEN IT COMES OUT, ASSUMING EDITORIAL BOARD STILL WANTS TO PRINT IT. I THEREFORE REQUEST ADDITIONAL CHANGES EXPLAINED BELOW. THESE CHANGES USE APRIL 24 REVISION AS BASE OF COMPARISON.

(A) OPENING PARAGRAPH OF PAPER SHOULD BE DELETED ENTIRELY AND FOLLOWING OPENING PARAGRAPH PUT IN ITS PLACE:

QUOTE. BEING A PERIPHERAL OBSERVER OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONTROVERSY, I HESITATE TO INSERT MY TWO BITS INTO THE DISCUSSION. CERTAINLY MORE IS GOING ON THAN IS DISCLOSED IN THE CABLES WE SEE AT MY PRESENT POST. YET I AM DISMAYED AT THE UNENDING DEADLOCK ON THE CRUCIAL PALESTINIAN QUESTION AND AT THE TENDENCY OF OFFICIAL U.S. STATEMENTS TO GO OFF IN VAGUELY CONTRADICTORY DIRECTIONS ON THIS ISSUE. OUR STATEMENTS SOMETIMES SEEM DESIGNED TO AVOID A HEAD-ON SCRUTINY OF THE PROBLEM AND SOMETIMES SEEM TO TAKE A POSITION ONLY TO FLIP-FLOP  
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AWAY FROM IT. THE COMMENTS BELOW ARE AIMED AT THIS CONFUSION, HOPEFULLY WITH CONSTRUCTIVE EFFECT. UNQUOTE.

(B) NEAR TOP OF PAGE 4 OF APRIL 24 REVISION IS LETTERED PARAGRAPH BEGINNING: "(C) WE FAVOR A PALESTINIAN...". DELETE THIS PARAGRAPH ENTIRELY AND PUT FOLLOWING LETTERED PARAGRAPH IN ITS PLACE:

QUOTE (C) WE FAVOR A PALESTINIAN "HOMELAND". THIS UTTER-  
ANCE DATING FROM MARCH 1977 LOOKS LIKE A REAL POSITION,  
BUT IT CAN MEAN SEVERAL THINGS. THE TERM CONJURES UP THE  
1917 BALFOUR DECLARATION THAT LED INEXORABLY OVER THREE TUR-  
BULENT DECADES TO THE SOVEREIGN STATE OF ISRAEL. WE SAY  
WE'LL ACCEPT WHATEVER PALESTINIAN "ENTITY" THE PARTIES  
AGREE UPON, ALTHOUGH WE PREFER ONE "TIED" TO JORDAN  
AND LESS THAN INDEPENDENT. AS I WRITE THIS, PRESIDENT CARTER  
HAS JUST REINFORCED THAT PREFERENCE BY BEING QUOTED AS  
SAYING HE HAD "NEVER FAVORED AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN  
STATE" AND HAS "NO INTENTION OF DEVIATING FROM THAT POSITION".  
A SUBSEQUENT OFFICIAL "CLARIFICATION" OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARK  
EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD SAID NOTHING NEW, BUT THE IMPRESSION  
WAS LEFT OF A BLUNTNESS PREVIOUSLY ABSENT IN OUR DISLIKE OF  
A SOVEREIGN PALESTINE. THAT AT LEAST BEGINS TO BE A RECOG-  
NIZABLE POLICY. HOWEVER, THE NATURE OF THE NON-INDEPENDENT  
"HOMELAND" ENVISAGED FOR THE PALESTINIANS REMAINS A MYSTERY.  
UNQUOTE.

(C) THE FIRST FULL SENTENCE AT TOP OF PAGE 6 OF APRIL 24 RE-  
VISION, ENDING A PARAGRAPH, READS: "THE ADMINISTRATION'S  
EVASIVE RHETORIC IS...". DELETE THAT SENTENCE. THE PARA-  
GRAPH THUS CLOSES WITH THE PRECEDING SENTENCE ENDING:  
"...FSKEIM FACE WITH THE HARSH REALITIES."

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(D) THE LST FULL SENTENCE ON PAGE 6, IN THE MIDDLE OF A  
PARAGRAPH, READS: "NOW THAT IT'S OUT, HE CANNOT AVOID..."  
DELETE THAT SENTENCE AND SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE:  
"NOW THAT IT'S OUT, HE CANNOT AVOID CONFRONTION IT REALIS-  
TICALLY." THIS CHANGES ONLY THE FINAL PART OF THE SENTENCE.  
NO CHANGE IN PARAGRAPHING.

(E) ON PAGE 11 OF APRIL 24 REVISION, IN MIDDLE OF PAGE, IS  
PARAGRAPH BEGINNING: "I SUBMIT THAT...". DELETE THAT  
PARAGRAPH AND PUT THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH IN ITS PLACE  
(ONLY CHANGE BEING ADDITION OF ONE WORD):

QUOTE I SUBMIT THAT THE PALESTINIANS ARE STRUGGLING FOR  
JUST ONE THING: AN INDEPENDENT STATE. IF WE REALLY THINK  
THEY WILL BE PACIFIED  
BY SOMETHING LESS THAN INDEPENDENCE,  
WE ARE WRONG. UNQUOTE.  
SIZER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MUSCAT00635  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Subject:** MEMORANDUM OF PERSONAL VIEW ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION BY THIS TIME YOU PROBABLY HAVE MY REVISED PERSONAL MEMO ON THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM DATED APRIL 2 4. SINCE THEN  
**TAGS:** OGEN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014